

CLAIMS:

1. A network system comprising:

at least one storage device, wherein the at least one storage device is capable of storing data, wherein the data is associated with a username;

5 at least one server connected to the at least one storage device so as to access the data on the at least one storage device;

a daemon on the at least one server for controlling storage distribution in the at least one storage device by applying a hashing algorithm to the username associated with the data.

2. The network system of claim 1, wherein the data includes e-mail messages.

3. The network system of claim 1, wherein the data includes audio data.

4. The network system of claim 1, wherein the daemon stores and accesses data on the at least one storage device based on the hashing algorithm, wherein the stored and accessed data is distributed on the at least one storage device in a substantially uniform manner.

5. The network system of claim 1, wherein the at least one storage device includes a first folder and a subfolder under the first folder, the daemon assigns a unique identification number to the data stored on the at least one storage device, the first folder corresponds to a hash value produced by the hashing algorithm, and the data is associated with the unique identification number in the subfolder.

6. The network system of claim 1, wherein the at least one server further includes a first server and a second server, wherein the first server is interconnected with the second server to provide respective operational information.

7. The network system of claim 1, wherein the at least one storage device includes the storage area network.

8. The network system of claim 7, wherein application executables are stored on the storage area network.

9. A network system comprising:

a first storage device and a second storage device, wherein the first and second storage devices are capable of storing data, wherein the data is associated with a username;

a first server and a second server, wherein the first server is connected to the first storage device and the second storage device, and the second server is connected to the first storage device and the second storage device, and the first server and the second server are both capable of accessing the data on the first storage device and the second storage device;

a daemon on the first server to control the storage distribution of the data in the first and second storage devices by applying a hashing algorithm to the username associated with the data.

10. The network system of claim 9, wherein the data includes e-mail messages.

11. The network system of claim 9, wherein the data includes audio data.

12. The network system of claim 9, wherein the daemon stores and accesses data on the first and second storage devices based on the hashing algorithm, wherein the stored and accessed data is distributed on the first and second storage devices in a substantially uniform manner.

13. The network system of claim 9, wherein the first storage device includes a first folder and a subfolder under the first folder, the daemon assigns a unique

identification number to the data stored on the first storage device, the first folder corresponds to hash value produced by the hashing algorithm, and the data is associated with the unique identification number in the subfolder.

14. The network system of claim 9, wherein the first server is interconnected with the second server to provide respective operational information.

15. The network system of claim 9, wherein the first storage device includes a storage area network.

16. The network system of claim 15, wherein application executables are stored on the storage area network.

17. A network system comprising:

a storage device capable of storing data associated with a username, wherein the storage device includes a directory of folders having a first folder and a subfolder under the first folder, wherein the data is stored in the subfolder;

5 a server connected to the storage device so as to access the data on the storage device; wherein the server includes a daemon, the daemon applies a hashing algorithm to the username associated with the data to produce a hash value, the daemon assigns a unique identification number to the data stored on the storage device;

10 wherein the first folder corresponds to a hash value produced by the hashing algorithm, and the data is associated with the unique identification number in the subfolder.

18. The network system of claim 17, wherein the data includes e-mail messages.

19. The network system of claim 17, wherein the data includes audio data.

20. The network system of claim 17, wherein the daemon stores and accesses data on the storage device based on the hashing algorithm, wherein the stored and accessed data is distributed on the at least one storage device in a substantially uniform manner.

21. A computer network method comprising the steps of:  
accepting a command function relating to data associated with a  
username;  
performing a hashing function on the username to produce a hash value  
for the username;  
accessing a folder on a network storage device based on the hash value,  
wherein the data is stored under the folder on the network storage device; and  
performing the command function relating to the data in the folder.

22. The computer network method of claim 21, wherein a plurality of  
folders are stored on the network storage devices, and the hashing function produces a  
substantially even distribution of folders across the storage devices of the network.

23. The computer network method of claim 21, further comprising the step  
of caching the hash values produced by the step of performing the hashing function.

24. The computer network method of claim 23, wherein the step of caching  
creates an index of hash values.

25. The computer network method of claim 21, wherein the step of  
accessing further includes the step of associating a unique identification number with  
the data.

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